

R E M A R K S

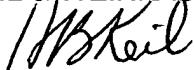
The claims in the case are claims 1-9. The claims were amended in the preliminary examination. The claims have been amended further to eliminate multiple dependency and to put them in better form for U.S. filing.

No new matter is included.

Favorable action is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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1. (original) A process for preparing polyoxymethylene by contacting a formaldehyde source with a catalyst of the formula I



where

M is a metal of group VIII;

L^1 is cyclooctadiene;

each L^2 is independently tetrahydrofuran or a ligand which is displaceable by tetrahydrofuran;

Z is an anion;

a is 1 or 2;

b is an integer from 0 to 4;

c is 1 or 2; and

m and n are integers from 1 to 4.

2. (original) A process as claimed in claim 1 where

M is Co, Rh, Ir, Ni, Pd or Pt.

3. (currently amended) A process as claimed in claim 1 either of

~~the preceding claims~~ where L^2 is selected from tetrahydrofuran, nitriles, CO, alkenes, amines, ethers, carboxylic esters, cyclic carbonic esters, epoxides, hemiacetals, acetals and nitro compounds.

4. (original) A process as claimed in claim 3 where L^2 is selected from acetonitrile, tetrahydrofuran and CO.

5. (currently amended) A process as claimed in claim 1 ~~any of~~

~~the preceding claims~~ where Z is a halide, sulfonate of the formula OSO_2R , where R is alkyl, partially or fully halogenated alkyl or aryl, carboxylate, complexed borate, complexed phosphate, complexed arsenate or complexed antimonate, with the proviso that not all Z radicals are halide.

6. (original) A process as claimed in claim 5 wherein at least

one Z radical is a perfluoroalkylsulfonate, tetrafluoroborate, hexafluorophosphate or hexafluoroantimonate.

7. (currently amended) A process as claimed in claim 1 ~~any of~~
~~the preceding claims~~ where the catalyst is selected from
[Pd(II)(cod)(THF)_x] (SbF₆)₂ and
[Pd(II)(cod)(CH₃CN)_x] (PF₆)₂
where
cod is cyclooctadiene,
THF is tetrahydrofuran and
x is an integer from 1 to 3.

8. (currently amended) A process as claimed in claim 1 ~~any of~~
~~the preceding claims~~ where the formaldehyde source is
formaldehyde, trioxane or paraformaldehyde.

9. (original) A process for preparing polyoxymethylene by
contacting a formaldehyde source with a catalyst of the
formula
[Ir(III)Cp*Cl₂Ir(III)Cp*Cl]CF₃SO₃
where
Cp* is pentamethylcyclopentadienyl.